



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief October 2019



Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 21 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa.

The available food security analysis survey (*Cadre Harmonisé*, March 2019), estimated that 1.17 million people were going to be food insecure during the lean season. The prevalence of acute malnutrition in children stands at 14 percent. (National Nutrition Survey, April 2019).

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, demographic growth, environmental degradation, and recurring shocks. In addition, the deteriorating security situation on the border with Mali, Burkina Faso and in the Lake Chad region leads to population displacements.

WFP Niger is engaged in emergency response interventions assisting refugees, displaced and host communities in Diffa, Tillabery, North Tahoua, and Maradi. In areas that have been recurrently affected by food insecurity, WFP is working closely with the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens (I3N) Initiative and Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health and Education to scale up resilience efforts through an integrated package of assistance.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **22 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **189 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.8% of children between 6-59 months**

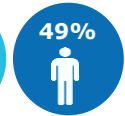
In Numbers

2,518 mt of food assistance distributed in September

US\$ 0.73 m cash-based transfers in September

US\$ 51 m six months (November 2019 - April 2020) net funding requirements

1.4 m people assisted from January to September



Strategic Updates

- In October, the National Security Council imposed military escorts for humanitarian missions in certain areas due to rising security concerns. Despite strong advocacy from the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) against this restrictive measure, all partners' operations were affected. WFP suspended 23 missions across Diffa, Tillabery, Tahoua and Agadez regions and was consequently unable to reach 167,600 people in October. By early November access without military escorts was restored in Diffa and Tahoua regions but is maintained in Tillabery.
- Niger welcomed a delegation of staff of Representatives and Senators of the US Congress, accompanied by the head of WFP's liaison office in Washington, USAID representatives from Washington and Dakar offices as well as the UN Foundation and the WFP-USA organisation. The delegation assessed WFP's integrated resilience-building approach in project sites of the Maradi region and met with line Ministries and the Prime Minister, and development and humanitarian partners to discuss US support to Niger's food security efforts and possible synergies around systematizing resilience building efforts, further embedding them in national strategies.
- On 29 October, WFP and the World Bank signed a country-level agreement articulating a joint vision to support the setup of a national Adaptive Social Protection system in Niger.

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- Flooding by the Komadougou River caused casualties and damage in the Southeastern Diffa region: over 100 ha of rice fields and over 500 ha of vegetable crops were drowned, and 45,600 people affected by 18 October. WFP responded to the regional administration's appeal, with unconditional cash transfers to 5,495 people displaced by the flooding for a total value of USD25,000. Other organizations covered the needs for shelter and hygiene kits. Due to military escort requirements for humanitarian missions, WFP could only assist flood-affected population seeking refuge in Diffa town this month.

Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security Cluster carried out a first estimation of people in Niger that will be needing food assistance in 2020 and presented its estimation at a Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) workshop. Needs are expected to be higher next year.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

Credit: WFP/Communication – October 2019

Caption: School Canteens, Tahoua region.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
199 m	134 m	51 m

*In 2020 WFP Niger will implement a CSP. NFRs as of 5 November e2019

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide assistance to crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, through food assistance, emergency school meals and specialized nutritious food to children for malnutrition prevention.

Strategic Outcome #2: Food insecure school-age children, in targeted regions have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the school year, in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #3: Vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women and adolescent girls in targeted areas have enhanced nutritional status all year-round.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide malnutrition treatment and prevention services to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant women, and cash grants to adolescent girls.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #4: Food insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year-round

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to food insecure and at-risk people, including the development or rehabilitation of assets, climate risk management measures, local purchases, through a community-based approach.
- Provide seasonal food assistance to food insecure population.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome #5: National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food-security, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to inter-sectorial national institutions on: (i) planning, (ii) coordination mechanisms, (iii) policy coherence, and (iv) knowledge management.

Strategic Result 8: Global partnership

Strategic Outcome #6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
- Provide logistics services to partners, to address problems of accessibility.

The projections will be adjusted over the next weeks, taking into account results of the *Cadre Harmonisé*, due in November 2019. Niger's HNO will be published together with the Humanitarian Response Plan by January 2020.

Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- UN Regional Directors of West and Central Africa visited Niger in October. The mission met with line Ministries and the Prime Minister, as well as donors and humanitarian and development partners, and expressed their commitment and reinforced the urgency, and necessity to further strengthen synergies of different resilience-building activities in the Sahel. The mission had the opportunity to visit project sites in Tillabéry region to assess how WFP and other UN Agencies are implementing a shock-responsive integrated approach to increase the resilience of communities in Niger.
- In October, WFP participated in planning meetings with USAID and NGOs implementing RISE II (Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced II). Partners met to define complementarities, develop joint work plans and prepare for memoranda of understandings (MoU). WFP will complement RISE II NGOs' activities with FFA and nutrition activities. It will also provide capacity strengthening and technical support for three-pronged approach programming and planning tools.
- During the last week of October, WFP welcomed Norway and South Korea delegations to further reinforce the importance of investing in an integrated resilience-building approach to achieve long-term objectives. The delegations visited Simiri in the Tillabery region.
- With the beginning of the new school year and the reopening of primary schools in October, WFP resumed its school feeding activities. The first food deliveries covered over 800 schools with 118,000 school children across all regions of the country.

Markets Assessments

- WFP conducted a market evaluation in October to assess the impact of the closure of Nigeria's borders. The market evaluation, which focused on agricultural markets in Maradi, highlighted that the absence of demand from Nigeria left local traders in Niger with an excess stock of Niébé, the local type of pulses. WFP is looking into partly offsetting the demand-shock by purchasing more Niébé from local suppliers than planned over the course of the coming months for its relief and resilience operations.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS is facing a critical funding deficit and has to shut down operations on 28 November 2019 if no new funding or pledges are received.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Luxembourg, Niger, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.